

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA Title and Number: City of Maupin

No: OR-056-00-109

Serial No.: OR-55835

Applicant: City of Maupin

BLM Office: Prineville District Office

Resource Area: Deschutes

Type: Right-of-Way

I. PURPOSE/NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION

The City of Maupin has applied with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a right-of-way to provide municipal sewer and water services to the public. This parcel of land is located within the Maupin Urban Growth Boundary. In 1999 this land was annexed into the city limits and zoned for residential development. The City of Maupin would prefer that these lands be developed in conjunction with a gravity feed sewer delivery facility. According to the City of Maupin, the only available land that would facilitate a gravity feed delivery system is owned by BLM. The BLM managed land is a 40 acre tract located in T. 5 S., R. 13 E., Section 6, NW1/4SE/14, Willamette Meridian, Oregon. The City of Maupin wishes to develop the most cost effective sewer and water infrastructure available for new residential development. This right-of-way grant, if approved would help the City of Maupin to achieve long term economic health for the community.

II. PLAN CONFORMANCE

In the Two Rivers Resource Management Plan, dated April 1985, page 17 states, APublic lands will continue to be available for rights-of-way, including multiple use and single use utility/transportation corridors following existing routes, communication sites, and roads.@ The plan further states, AApplications will be reviewed on an individual basis for conformance with the Two Rivers RMP/EIS so as to minimize conflicts with other resources or users.@

The regulations for this proposal, if authorized, are located in 43 CFR 2800, Rights-of-Way.

III. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Description of Proposed Action:

The City of Maupin has applied with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a right-of-way to provide municipal sewer and water services to the public. This parcel of land is located within the Maupin Urban Growth Boundary. In 1999 this land was annexed into the city limits and zoned for residential development. The City of Maupin would prefer that these lands be developed in conjunction with a gravity feed sewer delivery facility. According to the City of Maupin, the only available land that would afford a gravity feed delivery system is owned by BLM. The City of Maupin wishes to develop the most cost effective sewer and water infrastructure available for new residential development. This right-of-way grant, if approved would help the City of Maupin to achieve long term economic health for the community.

The right-of-way, if issued, would be approximately 20 feet wide and 1,600 feet in length, encompassing .73 acre. The water line would be buried three feet deep and the sewer line would be two feet deep. The equipment used to install the pipeline could be a backhoe, trencher, dump truck, rock saw, and compactor. There has to be approximately a one foot separation between the two lines and they would both be in the same ditch. The construction is estimated to be completed within five years. The proposed sewer and water line will cross private land prior to reaching BLM managed lands. The City of Maupin will obtain easements from the private land owners or the right-of-way grant, if issued, would be terminated. The cost of the construction is estimated to be approximately \$30.00 (\$20.00 for sewer and \$10.00 for water) a foot for the water and sewer lines. The total cost of the gravity feed system would be approximately \$300,000.00.

The Wastewater Treatment Facility which is operated on City owned property is 97 - 99% efficient. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Environmental Protection Act (EPA) requirement is to operate these facilities at 70% efficiency level.

The pipeline is made out of Polyvinylchloride (PVC) pipe and will have rubber gasketed slips. There is a 10% deflection joints in the PVC which means that these joints are machined so perfectly that there is no room for escapement. The water pipe will also be pressurized and that will make the fit even tighter.

The addition of these utility lines would have the potential to serve 100 plus homes. This will also allow existing homes along the route to hook up to municipal sewer and water. If these existing homes hook up to municipal sewer and water it would eliminate the use of septic tanks. With septic tanks all the liquids go into the ground, into a leech field. These liquids could possibly find their way to groundwater and pollute the groundwater source.

The Wasco County School District has submitted a letter of interest to obtain this parcel for a future school site under the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act. The proposed action would not negatively impact this interest with the School District, in fact, it would enhance it because the School District would also have to hook up to City water and sewer.

An access road is not needed to run adjacent to the utility lines.

Description of No Action

If the No Action alternative is selected the municipal sewer and water lines would not occur and the land would remain the same.

Alternative Considered but Dismissed

Developing a pump station and pumping the utilities from private property to Highway 197 and down Highway 197 to the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The cost of this would be more than \$700,000.00 and there would be daily maintenance costs. There would also be daily electrical costs associated with this proposal and the City of Maupin does not want to get involved with power costs. With the gravity feed system, maintenance would only have to be performed once every 5 years. Economically the proposed action is the only viable alternative for long term maintenance. This alternative was considered but dismissed because it was not a viable option for the City of Maupin.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

General Setting

The elevation that the City is proposing to install the municipal utility lines ranges from 1,350 to 1,400 feet. The vegetation on the parcel consists of Western Juniper, big sagebrush, bottlebrush squirreltail, and bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and Sandbergs bluegrass. Forbes include lomatiums, phlox, and Layia. Medusa-head was observed over much of the area.

A special status plant survey was conducted by the BLM indicates that there are no special status plant species found or expected to occur on the subject property.

Mule deer are the most common large mammals in the area. A number of smaller mammals are also found, including coyotes, skunks, rabbits, mice and ground squirrels. Other occupants include birds, snakes, lizards, and insects. Several species of raptors (birds of prey) also use the area for forage. There are no Special Status Species expected to occur on this tract. The Bald Eagle is a seasonal migrant to the canyon in the winter and could incidentally use this site while foraging.

This parcel of land is not within a grazing allotment so grazing privileges would not be affected.

Approximately 20 acres of the 40 acre tract managed by BLM are within the Deschutes River Wild and Scenic Corridor. However, none of the acreage affected by the proposed action would be within the Deschutes River Wild and Scenic Corridor.

A cultural resource survey was conducted by BLM in June of 2000. There were no cultural resources identified that would be considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

V. NO IMPACT ITEMS

The following critical elements were considered, but will not be addressed because they would either not be affected or do not exist in the project area:

1. Air Quality
2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
3. Cultural Resources
4. Environmental Justice
5. Farm Lands
6. Floodplain
7. Native American Religious Concerns
8. Recreation
9. Threatened or Endangered Species
10. Water Quality, Drinking or Ground
11. Wetlands/Riparian Zones
12. Wild & Scenic Rivers
13. Wilderness

VI. IMPACTS

Soil and Vegetation

Proposed Action

Soil and vegetation would be compacted and disturbed by the equipment digging the ditch and placement of the pipeline for .73 of an acre.

No Action

The area would remain the same as in the existing environment.

Wildlife

Proposed Action

Wildlife would be displaced only during the construction period. After the construction period the wildlife could return.

No Action

Wildlife currently using the property would be expected to continue to use the area.

Invasive & Nonnative Plants

Proposed Action

The construction of the ditch and installation of the pipelines could promote the spread of these plants.

No Action

The parcel would remain the same.

Wastes, Hazardous or Solid

Proposed Action

With the construction of the sewer and water lines there would be a potential for spilled or drained hazardous materials on BLM managed lands.

No Action

The parcel would remain the same.

Cumulative

Proposed Action

The proposed subdivision to the northwest of the BLM managed parcel of public lands would be subdivided

and up to 100 homes could be built. This subdivision is within the Maupin Urban Growth

Boundary. In 1999 this land was annexed into the city limits and zoned for residential development. The development would have to comply with the rules and regulations of the City of Maupin Planning Department. The development would be contained to the area within the City of Maupin's boundary.

Existing homes that were annexed into the City of Maupin in 1999 would have the opportunity to hook up to municipal sewer and water. In addition, water and sewer services would be available for new residential development and potentially a new school, eliminating the need for numerous new wells and leech fields. This could eliminate the future drilling of new wells and the future placement of leech fields on private property if existing wells and leech fields failed along the municipal lines.

No Action

As wells dried up in the area new wells would be drilled. If septic tanks failed or corroded and the leech field failed new septic tanks would be installed with a potential for new leech fields. These new leech fields could potentially pollute groundwater.

VII. MITIGATION MEASURES

- S The disturbed area will be seeded with a native seed mixture consisting of bottlebrush squirreltail, bluebunch wheatgrass, tall bluegrass, and Sand dropseed at a rate determined by the authorized officer.
- S The City of Maupin will work with Wasco County and BLM noxious weed control officers to insure control of any weed populations in a timely fashion.
- S The City of Maupin is responsible for any cleanup, treatment, or disposal of hazardous materials spilled, used, or drained on BLM managed lands.
- S If the City of Maupin does not obtain easements from private property owners, and if the right-of-way is authorized, the right-of-way grant would be terminated.

VIII. PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED

City of Maupin

Dan Van Vactor, City Attorney
Sherry Holiday, Mayor
Mike Miles, City Public Works Superintendent

Wasco County School District

Tom Rinearson, Superintendent

Bureau of Land Management

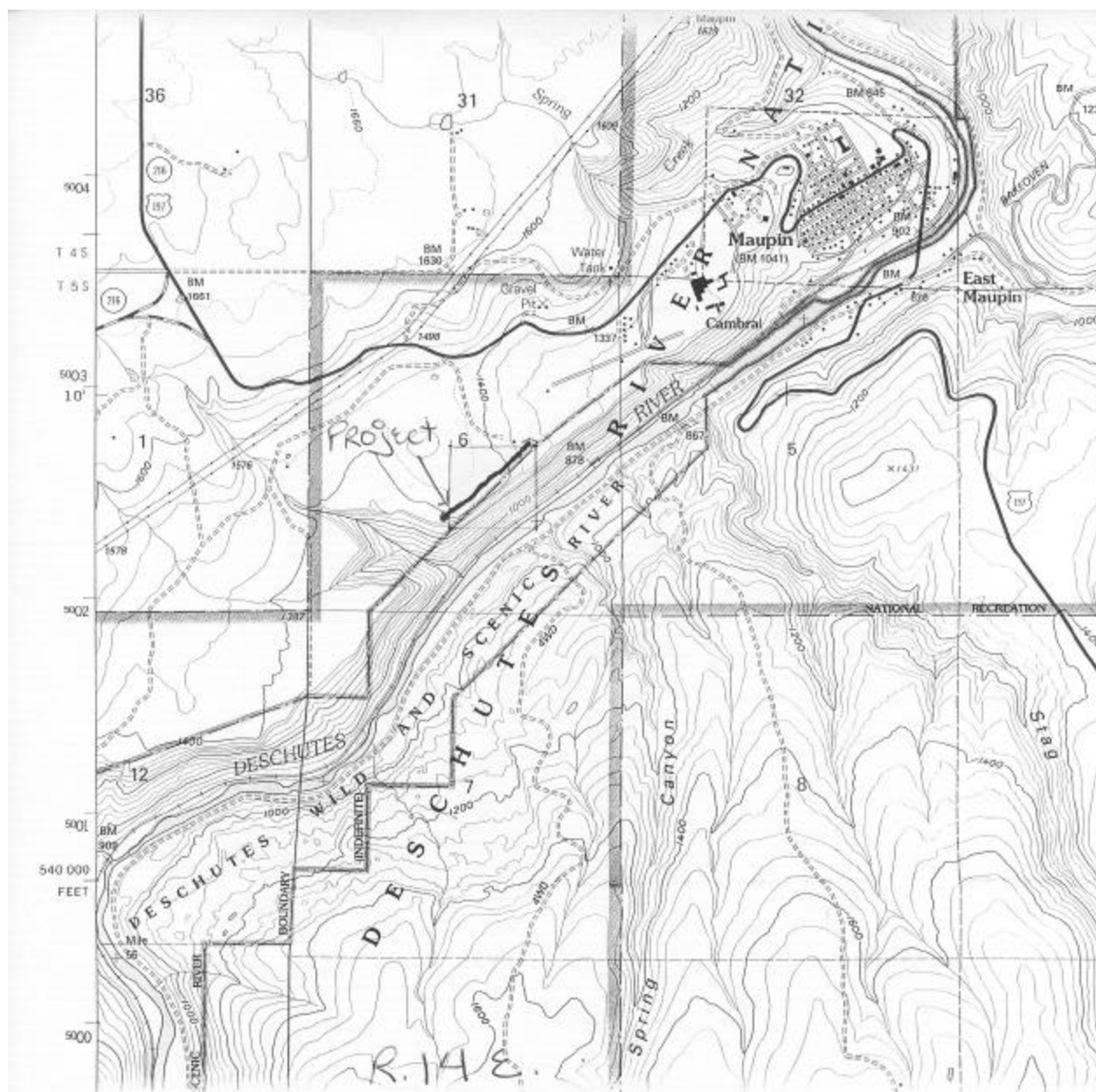
Ron Gregory, Archaeologist
JoAnne Armson, Botanist
JC Hanf, Rangeland Management Specialist
Helen McGranahan, Range Technician
Jim Eisner, Fisheries Biologist

Michelle McSwain, Hydrologist
Tom Mottl, Recreation Planner
Janet Hutchison, Realty Specialist

/s/ Janet Hutchison 09/26/00
Responsible Official / Date

NEPA Requirements adequately met:

/s/ John C. Hanf 09/26/00
Environmental Coordinator / Date



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

City of Maupin sewer and water right-of-way, OR-55835
Environmental Assessment - (EA#) OR-056-00-109
Prineville District Bureau of Land Management
Deschutes Resource Area

Summary of Proposed Action and Alternative

An interdisciplinary team of resource specialists at the Prineville District BLM has analyzed a proposal to install a sewer and water right-of-way by the City of Maupin. A no-action alternative was also considered.

FONSI Determination

Based on information contained in the EA, and other available information, it is my determination that none of the alternatives would constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. My reasons for this determination are:

- There would be no significant irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources.
- There would be no significant, adverse impacts to water quality or stream channel morphology.
- There would be no identified impacts or issues related to public health or safety.
- Cultural resources would not be expected to be impacted.
- There would be no impact on Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive plants or animals within the affected area.
- Wetlands and flood plains do not exist in the area, and would therefore not be impacted.
- The proposed action is not part of any other action having potential for cumulatively significant impacts to the important or relevant resource values for the area involved.
- The area is not within a Wild and Scenic River boundary or Wilderness Study Area, so no impacts to those resources would occur.

An Environmental Impact Statement is therefore unnecessary and will not be prepared. The proposed action and alternative is consistent with the existing Two Rivers Resource Management Plan.

Approved:

___/s/ _Marci Todd_____

Marci Todd
Acting Field Manager
Deschutes Resource Area

___9/26/00___
Date